

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent for two additional minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. I thank the Chair.

Madam President, I find that the greatest fear of those who are currently unemployed or who fear that they will, in this recession, be unemployed, is: How in the Good Lord's name am I going to be able to continue health insurance for my family?

I spoke to one couple last weekend who said their health insurance premiums are \$600 to \$700 a month. How can they afford to pay those premiums through COBRA to keep their insurance going?

The Senate bill, in an act of not only humaneness but an expression of classic American values, said why would we not want to help working families who, through no fault of their own, have been laid off, to at least cover the cost of health insurance for their families? The Senate finance bill will do that up to the tune of 75 percent.

This is a good, balanced program. It is the medicine our economy needs to help it grow. I hope we will not find the debate on the stimulus to be rigid, to be unthinking, to be unyielding. I think we need to be open-minded because the threat to our economy is real and profound.

The American people not only need help, but they will not tolerate a partisan debate that ultimately produces sound and fury but nothing to help them hold their jobs or help their families.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S.J. RES. 28

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, November 13, the Senate proceed to consideration of Calendar No. 219, S.J. Res. 28; that the statutory time limitation be reduced to 2 hours, with the time equally divided and controlled between the chairman and ranking member of the Budget Committee or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the joint resolution be laid aside, and the vote on final passage of the joint resolution occur immediately following the vote on confirmation of the Executive Calendar No. 511, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Madam President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the previously scheduled debate and vote on Executive Calendar

No. 511, Edith Brown Clement, be changed to reflect that the debate time occur at 4:45 p.m. and the vote on confirmation occur at 5 p.m., with all other provisions of the previous order remaining in effect, with the above occurring without further intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, on Tuesday, as a result of this unanimous consent agreement, there will be no votes until 5 o'clock. There will be a number of matters, as indicated in the unanimous consent request, taken up. That is the beginning of the time also for the debate on the stimulus package. We are going to be very busy Tuesday, but the first vote will not occur until 5 o'clock.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I rise to talk a bit about the economic recovery plan.

I begin by saying that yesterday, I chaired a hearing dealing with the U.S. Postal Service. My colleague, Senator BYRD from West Virginia, attended the hearing and asked the Postmaster General a series of questions. As with a lot of areas in our country since September 11, the U.S. Postal Service has been dramatically affected, perhaps more so than others. They have had postal workers die as a result of terrorists who used the system as a delivery mechanism for terror and death from the anthrax spores sent through the mail.

I told the Postmaster General that this country expresses its sorrow for what has happened to the Postal Service workers. These are wonderful people.

I mentioned one of the stories about the two Postal Service workers who died which described both of them in quite remarkable terms. One of them had worked 15 years on the night shift and had never, in 15 years, used 1 day of sick leave. One should not judge someone by whether or not they use sick leave. The point is, this person's neighbors talked about what a wonderful human being this person was.

The U.S. Postal Service is populated with men and women who do their job, as we say, in rain, sleet, and snow; regrettably now with anthrax, which has taken the lives of a couple of them.

I told the Postmaster General yesterday about a town meeting I had in Glenburn, ND, a small town with hundreds of people. At my town meeting, a fellow stood up and said: There is a lot of criticism about things and good government. I want to give you one piece of good news about the U.S. Post Office.

I asked: What is that?

He said: I got a letter out at my farm that was addressed "Grandpa, Glenburn, ND." It was from my grandson.

I asked: How on earth could that have been? How would you have gotten a letter addressed "Grandpa, Glenburn, ND"?

He said: You can ask the postmaster over there.

So I asked the postmaster: How would that have happened?

He said: We got the letter that said "Grandpa, Glenburn, ND." We looked at the postmark and it was Silver Spring, MD. We knew the only person around here that had relatives in Silver Spring was Frank, so we sent it out to Frank's farm. Sure enough, it got to the right grandpa.

I told the Postmaster General that story. So many others like it describe quite a remarkable system that has worked for a long while and one that we must preserve and keep and nurture and protect during these difficult times.

I rise to talk about all of the challenges, not just to the U.S. Postal Service but to our country. We face several challenges now. One is the challenge dealing with national security. One is a challenge dealing with economic security. And another is the challenge dealing with energy security. Some of my colleagues spoke about that earlier.

National security doesn't need much more description. Most of us understand that some sick, twisted minds hatched a plot that murdered thousands of Americans in cold blood. Terrorism has visited our land in a manner that we never thought before possible. Now this Nation is one in its determination to find and bring to justice those who committed these acts of terror.

It is a different time. There is a pre-September 11 and a post-September 11. We have a President who has spoken to the American people about putting the men and women in America's uniform in harm's way to try to find the terrorists and bring them to justice, to root out the terrorist cells formed around the world who would commit acts of these types. This country supports our President and the men and women in uniform who are risking their lives to do that.

I toured Ground Zero in New York about a week after the tragedy. I saw on the highest twisted metal beam yet standing where an iron worker had climbed and attached an American flag to that highest metal beam. As we came upon that tragic site, that is what we saw, carnage, destruction, but also an American flag gently blowing in the breeze that morning.

Two days later, I was in North Dakota driving between Bismarck and Dickinson, ND, on interstate 94, a patch where you couldn't see a structure of any kind anywhere, just rolling